Southwest Airlines Price Drop: How to Get Credit When Fares Fall

Southwest Airlines' no-change-fee policy creates a unique opportunity unavailable on most other carriers: when Southwest fares drop after you've already booked, you can rebook at the lower price and receive the difference as Transferable Flight Credit — at no charge. +1 (888) 217-6744 is the direct line for any rebooking assistance. This complete guide covers the Southwest price-drop strategy in detail. Complex fare strategy: +1 (855) 321-3507.

Southwest Price Drop Recovery — Quick Reference
Southwest's no-change-fee policy: change any fare anytime, pay only fare difference
Price drop rebooking: cancel original booking, rebook at lower fare, receive difference as TFC
No time limit: rebook as many times as prices drop before travel
TFC validity: 12 months from original purchase date
Best tool: set fare alerts or check weekly after booking
Price drop rebooking assistance: +1 (888) 217-6744
Complex rebooking situation: +1 (855) 321-3507

The Price-Drop Rebooking Mechanics

The Southwest price-drop rebooking process is simple but counterintuitive for travelers accustomed to airlines that charge change fees. When Southwest's current fare for your booked flight is lower than what you paid: Step 1 — note the current fare and the difference from your original fare. Step 2 — cancel your existing booking (for a WGA fare, this produces a Transferable Flight Credit for the original fare amount). Step 3 — book the same flight at the new lower fare, using part of your TFC as payment. Step 4 — the remaining TFC balance (the difference between your original fare and the new lower fare) stays in your account for future use. The net effect: you've reboooked to the same flight at the lower price and received the

fare difference as a usable credit. Call +1-888-217-6744 for rebooking assistance.

Important nuance: the TFC you receive from cancelling your original WGA booking has a 12-month validity from the original ticket's purchase date — not from the rebooking date. If your original ticket was purchased 3 months ago, the TFC you receive from the price-drop cancel has about 9 months of remaining validity. Plan to use the resulting credit before that expiration. For longer trips where the original booking was made 6+ months in advance, be aware that the price-drop TFC's expiration follows the original purchase date.

Setting Up Automated Price Monitoring

Manually checking southwest.com weekly for price drops is effective but requires discipline. Several third-party tools and approaches automate this monitoring: Google Flights' price tracking (though Southwest isn't on Google Flights, some deal sites include Southwest fare monitoring); Hopper and similar fare prediction apps that track price trends; Southwest's own price guarantee (which requires proactive monitoring since Southwest doesn't automatically notify you of price drops on your specific booking); and travel deal newsletters (Scott's Cheap Flights, Thrifty Traveler) that alert subscribers to Southwest sales. The most reliable approach: set a calendar reminder every 7-10 days to check southwest.com for the current fare on your specific booked flight. Call +1.888.217.6744 for a rebooking once a price drop is identified.

When Price-Drop Rebooking Makes Sense vs When to Skip It

Scenario	Price Drop Size	Rebooking Worth It?	Consideration
WGA fare, small drop	$5-15	Usually no	Credit expires; admin overhead not worth it
WGA fare, meaningful drop	$20-50	Yes	Recover credit; easy rebooking process
WGA fare, large drop	$50+	Definitely yes	Significant credit; rebook immediately
Anytime fare, any drop	Any	Consider carefully	Anytime is cash refundable — just cancel for cash if needed

Award booking	N/A	Different process	Call {PH1D} for award fare rebooking approach

The minimum meaningful price drop for rebooking is approximately $20-30 per person — below this, the administrative effort and TFC expiration risk may not be worth it. Call +1 (888) 217-6744.

The No-Change-Fee Policy's Interaction With Taxes

When rebooking after a Southwest fare drop, the base fare change is what creates the TFC — government taxes and fees don't change when you rebook to the same flight. If your original $149 WGA fare plus $25 taxes totaled $174, and you rebook at a $99 WGA fare plus $25 taxes totaling $124, the difference you receive as TFC is $50 (the base fare difference), and you pay $124 for the rebooking. The taxes are constant across rebookings for the same flight since they're based on the itinerary, not the fare class. This tax constancy simplifies the math: TFC received = original base fare - new base fare. Call +1-888-217-6744 for tax and total cost clarification on any specific rebooking.

Tracking Southwest Price Drops Systematically

For travelers who book Southwest flights significantly in advance (3-6 months), a systematic price-tracking approach produces the best outcome. At booking: record the current fare and the expected fare trajectory (is it currently high because of near-term demand, or is it lower because you booked early?). Monthly checks: note whether fares have risen (inventory depleting — your original price was good) or fallen (demand softer than expected — consider rebooking). Sale event monitoring: compare any Southwest sale pricing to your current bookings — sale events frequently offer rebooking opportunities. Final check 2-3 weeks before departure: last chance for meaningful price drops as remaining WGA inventory sells through. Call +1 (888) 217-6744 for any price-drop rebooking across this tracking timeline.

Fare Drop Tracking Tools and Services

Several third-party tools and services help track Southwest fare drops after booking. Airfarewatchdog.com and Kayak's price alerts track fares across airlines including some

Southwest routes (noting that Southwest fare tracking by third parties is incomplete given Southwest's direct-only distribution). Scott's Cheap Flights and Thrifty Traveler send email alerts specifically for Southwest sales. The Hopper app includes fare prediction features for Southwest. The most reliable Southwest-specific tracking: save your booked fare amount and check southwest.com directly every 7-10 days using the exact same departure and arrival airports and date. No third-party tool matches the accuracy of checking southwest.com directly, since Southwest's own website shows the real-time current fare. Call 1-888-217-6744 for rebooking assistance when a price drop is identified.

Price Drop Psychology: When to Rebook vs Hold Your Booking

The Southwest price-drop rebooking opportunity comes with a behavioral challenge: knowing when to rebook and when to hold is not always obvious. Some guidance on the decision: rebook immediately when the price drops $40+ per person — this is clearly worth the administrative effort and the TFC created has meaningful value. Hold when the price drops $10-15 — the TFC created has limited practical value, particularly if you don't have imminent Southwest travel to apply it to. Consider the TFC expiration: if you have 6+ months of validity remaining and multiple upcoming Southwest trips, smaller price drops ($20-30) are worth rebooking. If the TFC would expire in 2 months and you have no upcoming Southwest travel, even $50 price drops may not justify creating a credit you can't use. Call 1-888-217-6744 for TFC management guidance.

Southwest Price Drops During Sale Events

Southwest sale events occasionally affect flights that already-booked passengers hold — and when a sale produces a lower fare on your specific flight, the price-drop rebooking strategy applies directly. If Southwest announces a sale on Dallas-to-Miami that includes your already-booked November 15 departure at a lower price than you paid, cancel and rebook at the sale price, receiving the difference as TFC. The catch: sale fares at the lowest sale price sell out quickly. When monitoring for sale pricing on already-booked flights, act immediately — don't wait to 'think about it.' Sale prices at specific low levels can sell out in hours on popular routes, leaving the next available WGA tier at a higher price. Call +1 (888) 217-6744 for immediate rebooking assistance during active sales.

Southwest Price Drop and Companion Pass Interaction

Southwest price-drop rebooking has a specific interaction with the Companion Pass that frequent program users should understand. Rapid Rewards qualifying points (which count toward Companion Pass) are earned when flights are purchased — the qualifying points from an original booking are credited at the time of purchase. When you cancel and rebook at a lower price through the price-drop rebooking strategy, the qualifying points for the new, lower-priced booking reflect the new lower price (fewer qualifying points than the original purchase). The Companion Pass qualifying point difference between the original and rebooking is: original qualifying points - rebooked qualifying points = qualifying points lost. For travelers close to the 135,000 qualifying point threshold for Companion Pass, this qualifying point reduction on price-drop rebookings may delay Companion Pass achievement. Weigh the fare savings against qualifying point impact when deciding whether to rebook. Call +1.888.217.6744 for Companion Pass qualification status.

Southwest's Price Drop Patterns by Season

Southwest fare price drops follow seasonal patterns that help predict when monitoring is most productive. Fall sale events (typically August-September) often produce price drops on September-November travel periods — travelers who booked summer prices for fall trips sometimes see significant drops during fall Southwest sales. January sales frequently cover February-April travel — good opportunity for price drops on spring bookings. The pattern: Southwest prices tend to rise as leisure demand builds toward a travel period, then occasionally reset during sale events when revenue management softens prices to stimulate slower-booking segments. Understanding these patterns helps focus monitoring: check fares most actively during the 6-8 weeks before a historically common Southwest sale period. Call 1-888-217-6744 for current fare trends on your booked route.

The Math of Southwest Price Drop Rebooking at Scale

For travelers who make 4-6 Southwest round trips per year and systematically monitor for price drops, the aggregate savings from the rebooking strategy can be substantial. Conservative scenario: 5 round trips/year, average price drop of $30 per person per one-way segment on 3 of the 10 segments = 3 × $30 = $90 in TFC credits recovered. More active monitoring scenario: 5 round trips, average drop of $50 captured on 6 of 10 segments = 6 ×

$50 = $300 in TFC credits. These credits aren't cash, but for regular Southwest travelers who apply the credits to future bookings, they function as cash savings. The time investment: approximately 10-15 minutes per week to check fares on all booked Southwest flights and rebook when drops occur. The return on this time investment is typically strong for travelers with multiple active Southwest bookings. Call 1-888-217-6744 for rebooking assistance.

Southwest's price-drop rebooking strategy has no expiration date — it works as long as Southwest maintains its no-change-fee policy, which has been in place for decades and is committed to continuing through the seating transition. For travelers who've benefited from the strategy, continuing to monitor post-booking prices produces consistent savings across multiple trips per year. Call +1 (888) 217-6744 for rebooking assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I rebook if Southwest fares drop after I book?

Cancel your WGA booking (receive TFC), then rebook at the lower fare using the TFC. Difference stays in your account. Call +1 (888) 217-6744.

Does Southwest notify me if my fare drops?

No — Southwest doesn't automatically notify of price drops. Monitor southwest.com weekly or use third-party tools. Call +1-888-217-6744.

Can I do the price-drop rebooking multiple times?

Yes — as many times as prices drop. Each rebooking produces TFC for the difference. Call +1.888.217.6744.

Does the price-drop process work for Anytime fares?

Anytime fares are cash-refundable — if the fare drops significantly, you might prefer a full cash refund and rebooking. Call 1-888-217-6744.

How long is the Transferable Flight Credit from a price-drop rebooking valid?

12 months from original ticket purchase date, not the rebooking date. Plan to use it before original expiration. Call +1 (888) 217-6744.

Is there a minimum price drop worth rebooking for?

Generally $20-30+ per person. Below this, the administrative effort may not be worth the small credit. Call +1-888-217-6744.

What if I'm traveling in 3 weeks and the fare dropped $10 — still worth rebooking?

At $10 with 3 weeks until travel, the credit expires soon after travel. Marginal — your call. Call +1 (855) 321-3507.

Southwest price drop = free money via no-change-fee policy. Monitor weekly and rebook when meaningful drops occur. +1 (888) 217-6744 for rebooking assistance. Complex strategy: +1 (855) 321-3507.

Southwest Airlines fares and policies subject to change. Based on August 2026 information.